

[1961-MAY 25]

Mayor's



# Commission on GROUP RELATIONS

Room 214, City Hall, Newark 2, New Jersey

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STATEMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CLERGYMEN AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPANTS  
AT THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE CLERGY ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE  
MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS, MAY 25, 1961, NEWARK PUBLIC  
LIBRARY.

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The items listed below are brief summaries of individual responses during the Open Forum Discussion.

1. Relocation due to urban renewal is developing into a pattern which causes numerous problems for Newark residents.
2. We need a Citizens' Council on Urban Renewal which would be cognizant of present and future plans in the entire Urban Renewal picture and mobilize community interest in Urban Renewal.
3. In implementing our goal for Civil Rights and human rights, attractive car-cards to be placed in all of the public conveyances in Newark, with the signatures or pictures of Clergymen of the three major faiths, would have a positive effect in changing some of the prejudiced attitudes of people.
4. Clergymen must begin to take an interest in the community opinions and social attitudes held by citizenry within their congregations.
5. Is it necessary to locate an industrial center in the core of a former residential area, as is now planned for Clinton Hill?
6. One of the audience participants from the Weequahic Community Council requested a Fair Housing Practices Ordinance which would declare all sections of the City open to minority groups.
7. In the whole area of community and minority group relations we have a great need for more inspiration and understanding from the pulpits of the City.

8. All aspects and elements of the general housing problem should be our first consideration.

9. If we are to accomplish even a part of our planned program for Newark, the Staff of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations must be increased in order to meet the enlarged needs of the citizenry.

10. Clergymen must become more of the conscience of each neighborhood and the community at large and should participate more actively in community affairs.

11. Slum clearance is a desirable development in Newark, but it becomes undesirable if new slums are created as a result of the relocation program and high-rise low-rent projects. What can we do about these resultant ills?

12. There must be a tremendous increase of City inspection services aimed at all changing neighborhoods. Blight occurs quickest in these relocation sites on the periphery of the former slum areas.

13. Clergymen are not quite so omnipotent as some laymen seem to think. We often need your support as much as you need our counsel.

14. Clergymen should be more closely related to the official agencies of the City and should cooperate in the activities of the Associated Community Councils.

15. It would be a move toward better intergroup relations if there were a greater exchange of pulpits and choirs between various racial and religious groups.

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Chairman Alexander Mark, in summarizing the meeting, named a temporary Executive Committee of Clergymen who will act as a nominating and planning-coordinating group in setting up Action Sub - Committees and outlining program goals for the entire Clergy Advisory Council. He appointed Magr. Cornelius J. Boyle of Blessed Sacrament Rectory, as Chairman of this group. The other members are: Dean Robert McGregor, Trinity Cathedral; Rabbi Israel E. Turner, Adas Israel and Mishnayas; Reverend Wendell Hapson, Mt. Calvary Church; Reverend Homer J. Tucker, Mt. Zion Baptist Church.

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